III.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE ILLEGAL COLLECTION OF MONEY BY "PODU NALA SANGHAM" IN KEELA AYANAMBAKKAM

DR. H. V. HANDE : Sir, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Home to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the illegal imposition of fines and collection of money by a Sangham called 'Podu Nala Sangham', which was inaugurated by the Hon. the Minister for Home, in the village of Keela Ayanambakkam situated in Villivakkam division.

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : Sir, there are about 600 houses in Keela Ayanambakkam village, the entire population of which belongs to the Harijan community. Some of the youths of that village were indulging in illicit distillation of arrack, rowdyism, seduction of women, etc., in utter disregard of the advice of their elders. Hence, the elders thought it necessary to check the anti-social activities of these irresponsible youths effectively and organised a "Podhu Nala Sangam". This Sangam was inaugurated on 1st April 1965 (by myself).

The Office bearers and members of the Sangam usually meet as and when necessary to hear complaints and chastise the wrong-doers. The Sangam does not take cognizance of thefts and other major issues but advise parties to seek redress at the appropriate quarters. The Sangam confines itself to the improvement of the moral standard of the Harijans in general. However, it takes a serious view of prohibition offences. It is reported that very good results have been achieved in this regard and the village has become almost completely free from this evil. The women also feel secure from the anti-social activities of irresponsible youths. The caste Hindus in the adjoining villages also bring cases of all disputes, rowdyism, anti-social acts, etc., in which the Harijans of Keela Ayanambakkam are concerned to the notice of the Sangam for chastising wrong-doers. It is not true to say that the members of the community are subjected to any kind of hardship.

It is true that the Sangam has been collecting small sums of money by way of voluntary donations towards the expenses for the annual festival of the local Ellamman Temple. It is also learnt that the owners of the brick chambers close by have donated about 3,000 bricks for the construction of a pucca building for the Sangam.

There has been no complaint so far to the Police that the Sangam has collected any money by coercion or threat.

IV.—GOVERNMENT MOTION.

RULES UNDER THE MADRAS LAND REFORMS (FIXATION OF CEILING ON LAND) ACT, 1961.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move—

"That the draft of the Madras Land Reforms (Disposal of Surplus Land) Rules, 1965 which it is proposed to issue under

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a Laid on the table of the House on the 9th November 1965.